

CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) said device comprising a ~~the~~ drive system for moving the flats(7), which includes guide wheels (9) and cogged belts (23), which are equipped, with one or more scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) that eliminate the accumulation of foreign bodies from the guides (10), on which the resting elements of the flats (7) are moved.

2. (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 1, wherein the scraping and/or cleaning elements are set in the bottom face of the cogged belt (23) which moves the flats along the guides (10), said scraping and/or cleaning elements being made up of blades (40) which project from the bottom face of the cogged belt (23), on the side opposite to enlarged portions (24).

3. (previously submitted) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 2, wherein the blades (40) are set at right angles to the longitudinal direction of the cogged belt (23) or at an angle that is greater or less than 90°, in order to displace the foreign bodies removed as the blades pass over the guides (10), towards the inside of the carding drum, or ~~else~~ towards the outside of said carding drum.

4. (previously submitted) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 2, wherein the blade (40) is inclined with respect to the direction in which the carding drum moves, in order to exert an action of detachment against the layer of foreign bodies that come up against said

blade.

5. (previously submitted) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 2, wherein the blade (40) is inclined with respect to the direction in which the carding drum moves, in order to exert a pushing action, against said foreign bodies with an inclination that is in the same direction as the direction in which the carding drum moves.

6. (previously submitted) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 2, wherein the blade (40) has a V-shaped profile.

7. (previously submitted) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 1, wherein the cleaning elements comprise a scraping element (42), consisting of a plurality of rubber studs (42) arranged in a radial direction.

8. (previously submitted) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 1, wherein the cleaning elements comprise a cleaning element made up of a series of bristle brushes (41) arranged along the cogged belt (23) in a direction that faces its guide (10).

9. (previously submitted) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 1, wherein the scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) are separately fixed to the bottom face of the drive belt (23).

10. (previously submitted) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 9, wherein different types of scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) are used jointly on the same cogged belt, wherein scraping elements of different

inclination, material and orientation are successively disposed on said cogged belt.

11. (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 1, wherein the scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) are set underneath enlarged portions (24) of the cogged belts (23) in positions corresponding to a flat (7), and said enlarged portions all perform both a function of constraint with the flats and the function of drive toothings in order to grip, by means of a protruding profile[[s]], the toothed driving and return-idler wheels (9), said enlarged portions (24) being set apart from one another by a series of lower portions (25).

12. (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 1, wherein the scraping or cleaning elements (40, 41, 42) are set in positions opposite to constraint bodies (51, 55) for connection to the cogged belt (23), said constraint bodies (51, 55) forming cavities ~~for~~ to constrain pins (32) of flats (7), and having alternately set separate bodies (52) between said constraint bodies (51, 55) with profiles which correspond to the toothings of guide wheels (9) and are designed to mesh with the said toothings of guide wheels (9), in order to transmit driving motion for circulation of flats (7).

13. (previously presented) The device for preventing the deposit of foreign bodies on guides (10) of flats (7) according to Claim 12, wherein the constraint bodies (51, 55) and the separate bodies (52) are produced separately and then applied to the belt (23).